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NORTH CAROLINA



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR 1949 PEACH CROP?
2. HOW DOES THE CURRENT SUPPLY OF CORN COMPARE WITH LAST YEAR?
3. ARE THE SUPPLIES OF OTHER GRAIN LARGER THAN LAST YEAR?
4. IS THE COMMERCIAL POTATOE ACREAGE BELOW 1948?
5. WHY DID EGG PRODUCTION INCREASE IN MARCH?
6. HOW MANY EGGS WERE PRODUCED IN N. C. IN 1948?
7. WHY IS THE CONDITION OF PASTURES BETTER THAN 1948?
8. WHAT IS THE INDICATED 1949 WHEAT PRODUCTION?
9. WHY DID FARM WAGE RATES DECLINE AS OF APRIL 1?
10. HOW MANY HOGS WERE SLAUGHTERED IN N. C. IN FEBRUARY?

No. 35

RALEIGH, N. C.

APRIL 15, 1949

APRIL 1, 1949 GENERAL FARM REPORT

GENERAL FARMING SITUATION GOOD

As of April 1, the progress of farm work, including preparation of land and early spring planting, was well advanced. The planting of corn, cotton, and tobacco is underway in southern coastal counties. Temperatures dropped below freezing several nights during the month, the last occurring the night of March 16. Limited damages to certain crops resulted, but for the state as a whole, no serious cold weather damages are evident.

The freeze on the night of March 16 caused considerable damage to some fields of early seeded Hardired and Red Hart varieties of wheat. However, for the state's total acreage of wheat, prospects on April 1 were still favorable for a good crop. Other small grains were not affected materially by the cold weather. Growth is excellent due to the mild winter weather. Fall seeded grains are from 2 to 4 weeks ahead of normal development.

Tobacco plants are in good condition with only limited freeze damage indicated. Blue mold is showing up in some plant beds in the Border Belt counties.

Freeze damage to the peach crop turned out to be less than anticipated, particularly in the heavy commercial Sandhill counties. Pastures are in excellent condition. Well cared for pastures provided grazing throughout the winter months. The farm labor situation looks much better than for several years. Curtailment and reduction in industrial employment has increased the potential supply of farm labor, particularly in the Piedmont region. Indications are that farm wages have reached the peak and that some leveling off or downward adjustments might be anticipated.

PEACH PROSPECTS VARIABLE

The extent to which the March freeze damaged peaches varies considerably over the state. Such wide variations in freeze damage within an area make it more difficult to appraise the conditions of the crop on a given date.

Reporters have indicated the condition of the state's TOTAL peach crop as 43 percent of normal as of April 1. This compares with 70 percent on the same date last year and the 10-year average of 82 percent.

The farm or non-commercial crop was damaged by the March freeze to a greater extent than the commercial crop. Generally, the freeze damage was much less extensive than earlier anticipated, especially so in commercial orchards. As of April 1, the peach crop in the Sandhills Area looks very favorable and orchards which were properly cared for have a good set of peaches.

In the 10 early southern peach states the April 1 condition is reported to average 55 percent of normal -- the lowest since the 48 percent reported on April 1, 1943. This compares with 67 percent a year ago, 78 percent two years ago, and the 1938-47 average of 74 percent. The season is

a week to 10 days earlier than usual -- about the same as a year ago. Much of the area was in full bloom at the time of the mid-March freezes, which cut the production prospects sharply in the Spartanburg area of South Carolina, in Georgia north of Macon, and in northern Alabama. Damage was not so extensive in the adjoining ridge area of South Carolina nor south Georgia. In these areas, a fair-sized crop is expected, although losses were heavy in individual orchards.

The table below shows the condition of peaches on April 1 by states and years.

PEACHES

CONDITION APRIL 1

STATE	AVERAGE	1946	1947	1948	1949
	1938-47				
PERCENT					
N. C.	82	88	87	70	43
S. C.	76	82	85	69	33
GA.	74	78	78	76	54
FLA.	70	74	56	71	61
ALA.	72	76	74	70	53
MISS.	74	76	72	70	62
ARK.	70	85	78	68	84
LA.	72	74	73	69	75
OKLA.	65	85	44	29	76
TEX.	73	79	73	36	82
CALIF.	--	--	--	--	--
11 STATES	74	81	78	67	55

WHEAT HEADS TELL THE YIELD STORY



Prices received by farmers for chickens increased from February 15 to March 15 but egg and turkey prices continued to decline.

Total carry-over of feed grains at the end of the 1948-49 marketing year is expected to be about the largest on record.

LARGE SUPPLY OF CORN ON FARMS

On April 1 North Carolina farmers had an estimated 30,659,000 bushels of corn on their farms. This was the second largest April 1 supply of corn of record, which is to be expected since production of corn in 1948 was exceeded only by that for 1947.

Supplies of wheat on farms in North Carolina as of April 1 at 725,000 bushels were the lowest since 1934. On farm oats stocks were down to 956,000 bushels, the lowest since 1944, and the 19,000 bushels of rye on farms were the lowest of record for April 1. Barley stocks at 144,000 bushels were at about the April 1 average level.

Farm stocks of soybeans in North Carolina on April 1 were estimated at

927,000 bushels, or slightly above the average.

Although April 1 on farm supplies of wheat, oats and rye on North Carolina farms were at unusually low levels, total feed grain supplies are expected to be adequate since the outcome of the 1948 corn crop resulted in larger than usual supplies of this grain feed.

Farm stocks of feed grains in the United States are the largest of record for April 1 in total tonnage, and especially in quantity per animal unit to be fed. This contrasts with the very low stocks a year ago. Most of the difference is due to farm stocks of corn, which at 1,776 million bushels exceeds by a wide margin corn stocks on April 1 of any other year.

STRAWBERRY ACREAGE INCREASES

North Carolina's strawberry acreage is currently estimated at 2,400 acres, 100 acres above 1948. Total acreage for all states in the mid-spring group is now estimated at 49,470, comparing with last year's acreage of 47,200 and the 10-year average of 56,840 acres.

Based on conditions of the crop as of April 1, a yield of 65 (24-quart) crates per acre is in prospect for the North Carolina crop. This yield indicates a total production of 156,000 crates. Last year's yield for the state was 85 crates per acre -- the 10-year average is 83 crates.

The prospective average yield for the mid-spring group of states is 78 crates per acre, comparing with 79.8 crates last year and 65.2 crates for the 10-year average. Total production for all states in the mid-spring group is expected to be about 2.5 percent above 1948.

GRAIN STOCKS ON FARMS ON APRIL 1

CROP	AVERAGE 1938-47	1948		1949	
		STOCKS	PERCENT 1/	STOCKS	PERCENT 1/
THOUSAND BUSHELS					
NORTH CAROLINA					
CORN.....	22,541	32,768	49.0	30,659	45.0
WHEAT.....	1,174	1,639	20.0	725	12.0
OATS.....	1,360	2,164	19.0	956	12.0
BARLEY.....	-	265	22.0	144	18.0
RYE.....	-	44	13.0	19	6.9
SOYBEANS.....	907	734	21.0	927	26.0
UNITED STATES					
CORN.....	1,206,247	842,608	39.4	1,776,220	52.8
WHEAT.....	202,904	256,986	18.8	239,315	18.6
OATS.....	454,022	405,082	33.8	577,945	38.7
BARLEY.....	2/ 94,711	59,345	24.7	111,511	35.2
RYE.....	2/ 11,298	4,436	17.1	5,454	20.7
SOYBEANS.....	2/ 35,320	33,110	18.0	51,644	23.5

1/ Percent of previous year's crop.
2/ Short-time average.

COMMERCIAL POTATO ACREAGE DOWN

As of April 1, 1949, growers of commercial early Irish potatoes in North Carolina indicate that plantings this year will be 24,000 acres. This year's acreage is about 23 percent smaller than the 31,000 acres planted in 1948, and compares with the 10-year (1938-47) average of 34,150 acres. Planting of the crop is complete, and generally the crop is up to fairly good stands. Growers' judgment indicate that the present condition of the crop is somewhat above average. Because of favorable weather conditions for planting and growing, the crop is from one to two weeks earlier than normal in most commercial areas.

The total 1949 acreage in the late-spring group of states, which include North Carolina, is estimated at 143,000 acres, or 15 percent less than last year's acreage of 168,100. The 10-year average for this group is 175,990 acres.

California's commercial early Irish potato acreage is currently estimated at 66,000 acres, comparing with 80,000 acres planted last year and the 10-year average of 50,600 acres.

CABBAGE ACREAGE UP

Late spring cabbage acreage for harvest in North Carolina this year is now estimated at 2,200 acres. Because of prolonged favorable weather conditions during planting time, growers in some areas have planted a slightly larger acreage than originally planned. Thus, the current acreage is 200 acres above intentions as of February 1. This year's acreage compares with 2,000 acres harvested last year and the 10-year (1938-47) average of 1,620 acres.

Generally, the cabbage crop in the commercial producing areas of the state is in very good condition. Stands are mostly very good and growth has been excellent. The crop in nearly all areas is around 2 weeks earlier than usual.

The total acreage for harvest in the late spring group of states, including North Carolina, is estimated at 11,500 acres, slightly above last year's 10,800 acres and the 10-year average of 10,840 acres.

Demand for farm products will remain fairly strong in '49 although a little lower than in '48.

EGG PRODUCTION HIGHER

Production of eggs on North Carolina farms during March totaled 126 million, an increase of 38 million eggs over production the previous month, as well as an increase of 12 million over the same period last year. This increase can be attributed to very favorable weather for egg production and to the normal upward trend which develops at this time of year. About 7,721,000 layers were on farms during March this year, compared with 7,323,000 on farms during March 1948. Farmers supplying hatcheries were inclined to cull their flocks rather lightly during February due to the strong demand for hatching eggs. Rate of lay was 42 percent higher than last month and 4 percent higher than during the same period a year earlier. A record rate of lay was established for March. This record can also be attributed to the unusually favorable weather along with the establishment of higher producing flocks throughout the state.

Although weather conditions during the month were generally favorable for egg production, a few farmers have reported that the unusually mild but variable weather of late March has caused respiratory inflammation in their flocks. The actual number of flocks affected, however, is not known at this time.

Meat production will soon increase seasonally, probably at a faster rate than last year.

Farmers' cash receipts from marketings in '49 may be about 10 percent less than their receipts last year. Production costs in '49 are likely to be somewhat smaller than in '48 but probably will not drop as much as cash receipts.

POULTRY INDUSTRY ON HIGH LEVEL

During 1948, there were 16,893,000 chickens, excluding commercial broilers, produced on farms in North Carolina. Production during the year compares with 17,920,000 chickens produced in 1947, a decrease of about 6 percent.

Last year, there were 7,562,000 chickens sold from farms in the state, while 9,016,000 chickens were consumed in farm households. These numbers compare with 10,008,000 sold and 9,491,000 consumed during 1947. Inventories showed a total of 10,847,000 chickens on farms on January 1, of this year and 10,532,000 on the same date in 1948, an increase of 315,000 during the year. For chickens sold during 1948, farmers received an average price of 30.7 cents per pound, or total cash receipts amounting to \$9,750,000. Cash receipts from the sale of farm chickens in 1947 totaled \$11,694,000 for an average price of 28.5 cents per pound. Gross income, which includes the value of chickens consumed in the farm household as well as cash receipts was \$19,161,000 in 1948, comparing with \$21,161,000 during the previous year.

Broiler production in North Carolina during 1948 reached 18,286,000 birds, weighing 53,029,000 pounds. Growers received an average price of 34.7 cents per pound during the year for a total gross income of \$18,401,000. In 1947 there were 16,182,000 broilers

or 45,310,000 pounds produced in the state. An average price of 32.9 cents per pound was received for broilers sold, while total gross income from production amounted to \$14,907,000.

Layers on North Carolina farms produced 923 million eggs in 1948, an average rate of lay of 133 eggs per layer. Production during 1947 totaled 981 million eggs. The average rate of lay was 131 eggs per layer. Of the total production last year, 601 million eggs were sold, 314 million consumed in farm households and 8 million used for farm hatching. In 1947, 648 million were sold, 324 million consumed in farm households, and 9 million used for farm hatching. For eggs sold, farmers received an average price of 50.3 cents in 1948 and 48.0 cents in 1947.

In the United States, chicken production on farms amounted to 556,340,000 birds in 1948 - 16 percent less than in 1947. In addition, 350,773,000 commercial broilers were produced, a record high production -- 19 percent more than in 1947. The average price per pound live weight of chickens sold from farms in 1948 was 30.6 cents, compared with 26.8 cents in 1947. Commercial broiler prices in the nation averaged 35.9 cents per pound in 1948 and 32.1 cents in 1947.

U.S. egg production in 1948 amounted to 55,168 million eggs, about the same as in 1947. The annual rate of lay per hen and pullet on hand January 1 was 129 eggs compared with 127 in 1947.

PASTURE CONDITIONS VERY GOOD

Very few farmers can recall a more favorable winter for pasture growth than was experienced this year in most areas throughout the State. As of April 1, farmers report the average condition of pastures as 91 percent of normal. This is the highest condition of record for this date and is 3 points above the condition a year ago and 10 points above the 10-year April 1 average. Many farmers were very fortunate in being able to graze their herds all winter on pastures, and as a result, the minimum amount of hay was required.

Permanent pastures that include a legume as well as a grass have provided the best grazing opportunity. One of the favorite combinations for permanent pastures in the Piedmont Area of North Carolina is a mixture of Ladino clover and orchard grass.

Farmers are continuing to become more interested in productive pastures since it is one of the cheapest and best sources of feed for all purposes.

WHEAT PROSPECTS DECLINE

Generally speaking, the state's wheat crop is in good condition. Relatively early plantings followed by the mildest winter of record resulted in abnormal growth. As a result, some early seeded fields of Hardired and Red Hart varieties were damaged by the freeze the night of March 16. The extent of damage varies considerably, being closely related to the date of seeding and rankness of growth. It is expected that harvest will get underway earlier than usual. The April forecast of production is placed at 7,365,000 bushels, compared with the December 1 estimate of 7,856,000 bushels. If such a crop is realized, production will be 21.8 percent above the short 1948 crop and 8.2 percent greater than average.

EXPECTED RYE YIELD FAVORABLE

April 1 prospects for rye production in North Carolina appeared very favorable. Condition of the crop as of April 1 is estimated at 91 percent of normal, as compared with 85 percent on the same date last year.

Due to the unusual mild weather during the planting season, farmers were able to get most of their planting accomplished rather early.

The rye crop suffered no apparent damage from the two cold spells in March. In a few instances farmers have reported slight damage caused by excessive rainfall during the late fall and early winter months. Yields over the state are expected to be somewhat above the average if favorable weather continues throughout the growing season.

NORTH CAROLINA FARM PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, CASH
RECEIPTS AND GROSS INCOME FROM CHICKENS

ITEMS	UNIT	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944
RAISED, ^{1/} THOUSANDS.....	HEAD	18,894	20,100	21,383	24,299	23,466
LOST, ^{2/} THOUSANDS.....	HEAD	2,001	2,180	2,248	2,352	2,993
PRODUCED, ^{3/} THOUSANDS...	HEAD	16,893	17,920	19,135	21,947	20,473
CHANGE IN INVENTORY, ^{4/} THOUSANDS..	HEAD	+ 315	-1,579	-1,112	- 611	-1,794
CONSUMED IN FARM HOUSEHOLD, THOUSAND.....	HEAD	9,016	9,491	9,785	10,088	9,910
SOLD, THOUSAND.....	HEAD	7,562	10,008	10,462	12,470	12,357
PRODUCED, THOUSAND.....	POUNDS	63,737	67,777	71,604	84,284	77,003
CONSUMED IN FARM HOUSEHOLD, THOUSAND.....	POUNDS	30,654	33,218	33,269	33,290	33,694
SOLD, THOUSAND.....	POUNDS	31,760	41,033	42,894	53,621	50,664
PRICE PER POUND.....	CENTS	30.7	28.5	28.8	28.8	25.3
CASH RECEIPTS, THOUSAND..	DOLLARS	9,750	11,694	12,353	15,443	12,818
VALUE OF CHICKENS CONSUMED, THOUSAND.....	DOLLARS	9,411	9,467	9,581	9,588	8,525
GROSS INCOME, THOUSAND...	DOLLARS	19,161	21,161	21,934	25,031	21,343

^{1/} Does not include young chickens lost

^{2/} Loss during the year of chickens on hand January 1.

^{3/} Chickens sold plus consumed in household of farm producers, and the plus or minus change in inventory.

^{4/} Change in inventory numbers during the year.

NORTH CAROLINA FARM PRODUCTION, SALES
AND CASH RECEIPTS FROM EGGS, 1944-48

YEAR	EGGS PRODUCED	EGGS SOLD	PRICE PER DOZ.	CASH RECEIPTS
	MILLION		CENTS	THOUS. DOL.
1948	923	601	50.3	25,192
1947	981	648	48.0	25,920
1946	980	628	41.6	21,771
1945	1,031	691	40.4	23,264
1944	1,148	810	33.9	22,882

NORTH CAROLINA COMMERCIAL BROILER
PRODUCTION AND GROSS INCOME, 1944-48

YEAR	PRODUCED		PRICE PER POUND	GROSS INCOME ^{1/}
	NUMBER	POUNDS		THOUS. DOL.
	THOUSANDS		CENTS	THOUS. DOL.
1948	18,286	53,029	34.7	18,401
1947	16,182	45,310	32.9	14,907
1946	14,711	42,662	32.3	13,780
1945	17,940	52,026	29.7	15,452
1944	11,200	31,360	28.2	8,844

^{1/} Includes consumption in households of producers which is less than 1 percent of total production.

U.S. crop sales at 700 million dollars in March were down slightly from February.

FARM REPORT

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APRIL 1949

FARM REPORT

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MILK PRODUCTION SEASONALLY UP

Following the usual seasonal pattern, milk production during March showed a sharp increase. An estimated 126 million pounds of milk were produced during the month compared with 118 million pounds for March of last year and 111 million pounds during February this year. Production continues to hold to the record high level established thus far this year.

Production per cow in herds during March averaged 358 pounds. This was an increase of 43 pounds over that for February, and 28 pounds more than for March a year ago.

There were 353,000 milk cows on North Carolina farms in March, no change from the previous month. The total number of milk cows on farms during the month was the lowest since 1942. However, the excellent condition of pastures throughout the winter and early spring months in practically all areas of the state, have boosted milk production per cow to a level resulting in a record high total production for the month.

FARM WAGE RATES DECLINE

Farm wage rates in North Carolina declined slightly between January 1 and April 1. Generally, wages increase moderately as the farm work season progresses. The decline from January to April represents the first decrease in farm wage rates in several years. Important factors contributing to the decrease in farm wage rates are: (1) larger supply of labor available; (2) decrease in net farm income in 1948 as compared with 1947; (3) increased supply of farm machinery which reduces hand labor requirements; and (4) less competition from industrial employment.

The rate per day with house was \$3.55 on April 1 as compared with \$3.75 on January 1. The rate per day without board or room decreased from \$4.50 on January 1 to \$4.25 on April 1.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER IN FEBRUARY LESS THAN IN JANUARY

Commercial slaughter of livestock in North Carolina including slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter, but excluding farm slaughter, in the state during February was lower than January for all types of meat animals, except sheep and lambs. The number of all types of meat animals slaughtered in February of 1949 was lower than February 1948. The number of cattle slaughtered in February of 1949 was only 56.7 percent of the number slaughtered in February 1948.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, FEBRUARY 1949 AND 1948*

TYPE	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES			
	NUMBER		TOTAL		NUMBER		TOTAL	
	SLAUGHTERED		LIVEWEIGHT		SLAUGHTERED		LIVEWEIGHT	
	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. LBS.	THOUS. LBS.	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. LBS.	THOUS. LBS.
CATTLE....	9.7	5.5	7,240	4,334	1,377	1,374	1,266,977	1,308,825
CALVES....	10.9	7.5	1,416	1,213	884	811	158,424	148,709
HOGS.....	30.0	29.0	6,456	6,242	4,875	5,121	1,198,260	1,243,691
SHEEP & LAMBS....	.3	.1	28	10	1,310	1,137	130,854	110,317

* Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR MARCH 1949

In contrast to the previous two months, March temperatures averaged no more than two degrees above normal in most sections of the state. Unseasonably high temperatures prevailed from the 23rd to the end of the month with the mercury pushing into the 80's on several of the days in the Piedmont and Coastal Plains. Frost occurred frequently in all areas of the state during the first half of the month with a hard freeze everywhere on the 16th except near the coast. The total precipitation in most sections was only about half the normal amount for the month. The rainfall amounts were, however, sufficiently distributed throughout the month to meet the modest soil moisture requirements.

